

Transportation Management Center Pooled Fund Study 2009 Annual Meeting, May 19-20, 2009

**M Resort
12300 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Henderson, Nevada 89044**

Minutes

Tuesday, May 19

Introductions, Welcome, & Opening Remarks

Cathy McGhee (Virginia DOT) and Jim McGee (Nebraska DOR) chaired the meeting. Glenn Grayson (Las Vegas Regional Transportation Commission/FAST) welcomed the meeting participants. Introductions were made.

Raj Ghaman (FHWA) and Tom Granda (FHWA) welcomed the meeting participants. Ghaman welcomed the first-time meeting participants and introduced Rich Cunard (TRB) as the guest to the meeting.

The agenda was reviewed. Arrangements for lunch and dinner were announced.

Presentation – Preliminary Results of Requirements for TMC Human Factors Design Guidelines

John Campbell (Battelle) gave a presentation on the status and preliminary results of the Requirements Analysis for TMC Human Factors Design Guidelines project. Discussion on the project included project objectives, project progress and current status, an overview of preliminary handbook topics, and sample guidelines. Campbell discussed the three sample guidelines that were prepared for this project. Key discussion points are summarized below:

- Guidelines in electronic version are a preferred format that allows flexibility to incorporate changes in the future.
- Guidelines are not developed for but can support training.
- CMS sample guideline mainly focuses on incidents and congestion. It will be expanded to include references for non-incident, work zone, silver alerts and LEO alerts.

Presentation – Preliminary Results of Driver Use of En-Route Real-Time Travel Time Information

Granda presented the preliminary results of the project on behalf of Neil Lerner (Westat). The presentation provided a project background, deliverables produced to date, project status, schedule for the remainder of the project, and preliminary results and findings. The draft research report and draft white paper would be available for review at the end of June. Jeff Galas (Illinois DOT) and Cathy McGhee indicated their interests of reviewing the documents. Members who are interested in reviewing the documents should contact Ming-Shiun Lee (URS).

Status Report on TMC PFS Projects

Lee gave a brief overview presentation on the status of other current projects and future initiatives. The presentation covered for each project the project purpose and objectives, intended audience, project deliverables, and schedule and milestones. Lee noted a quarterly progress report was also included in the meeting binder.

Lee noted that 16 projects have been completed by the TMC PFS to date. The majority of the project products are available on the TMC PFS web site. Members can request electronic copies of projects from Lee. In addition to the two projects presented earlier, there was one other on-going project and a few upcoming projects. The status of those projects is summarized below:

Procuring, Managing, and Evaluating the Performance of Contracted TMC Services

- Draft project report will be available in June 2009.
- Final report and a series of outreach materials are expected by the end of August 2009.

Integration of TMCs and Law Enforcement – Needs Assessment

- Statement of work (SOW) has been completed. Anticipated project kick-off is in the summer of 2009.
- Key products would include a synthesis report and a findings report.

Methodologies to Measure and Quantify TMC Benefits – Phase 1

- SOW has been completed. Anticipated project kick-off is in the summer of 2009.
- Key products would include a synthesis report and a work plan for Phase 2.

Developing Travel Time Information

- SOW has been completed. Anticipated project kick-off is in the summer of 2009.
- Key products would include a technical document, a project fact sheet, a tri-fold brochure, and a PowerPoint presentation.
- It was noted that similar studies are underway. Particularly, TRB is performing a synthesis study that is about 50% complete. Lee would contact the project consultant (Dean Deeter) for further information.

TMC Clearinghouse Support Services Phase 2

- SOW was 80% complete. Anticipated project initiation is in the fall of 2009.

Lee indicated the following projects were selected at the 2008 annual meeting. SOWs of those projects have not been development yet. Members could reconsider the priorities of those projects in the afternoon.

- Roles of TMC in Emergency Operations
- TMC White Paper Series
- Developing TMC Operator Training Program Guidelines
- TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures
- Effectiveness of Highway Advisory Radio
- Best Practice of Road Condition Reporting Systems

FHWA Office of Operations Report

Jimmy Chu (FHWA) reported on the FHWA Office of Operations current program activities. Discussion included travel time messages on dynamic message signs (DMS), Road Weather Management Program, and Active Traffic Management (ATM) Program. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Currently 46 TMCs in the U.S. display travel time messages on their DMS during non-incident periods.
- Road Weather Management: The Integration of Weather Information in TMC operations Self-Evaluation and Planning Guide is available on the web. TMCs interested in participating the self-evaluation can contact FHWA.
- A TMC and Weather Information Integration Webcast is scheduled for August 6, 2009 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.
- Initial efforts of the ATM Program focus on foundational research and guidance. Current efforts include:
 - ATM Synthesis
 - ATM Guidebook
 - ATM Concept Development and Research Plan

FHWA Safety R&D Program Report

Granda reported on the selected FHWA Safety R&D human centered systems projects.

Status Report and Feedback on FHWA Programs

Ghaman reported on the FHWA current program activities related to SHARP II Program, JPO Programs, Integrated Corridor Management (ICM), and IntelliDrive.

Membership and Financial Status Updates

Ghaman reported the membership status and summarized the financial procedures published by the Transportation Pooled Fund Program. Ghaman and Granda would start contacting members regarding their membership standings and future contributions.

Members discussed the marketing strategies for consideration:

- Staff turnover could be an obstacle.
- McGee discussed the opportunity with Iowa and Ohio previously and would continue the dialogue.
- Other potential members to pursue include Wyoming and Colorado.
- AASHTO annual meeting would be a good venue for targeted outreach.
- It is important to reach appropriate individuals.
- The TMC PFS could potentially broaden the scope to attract additional participation.
- Could invite non-member states to participate in future annual meetings.
- Could hold annual meetings at locations in non-member states and invite them to participate.

Roundtable Discussion

Members engaged in a roundtable discussion to report on recent and future activities, discuss issues and exchange information.

Review and Discuss Proposed Projects

Members reviewed the project selection results from the 2008 annual meeting. Due to issues with the new financial system, only one of the projects had been moving forward. The remaining projects would be considered for voting and prioritization again.

Members decided the following projects should move forward without re-voting:

- Roles of TMC in Emergency Operations
- Methodologies to Measure and Quantify TMC Benefits, Phase 1
- Integration of TMCs and Law Enforcement: Needs Assessment

Members discussed the remaining projects previously selected as well as identified a few new project ideas. The following are issues that were identified by the members to be considered for inclusion in the projects if they were considered further:

Developing Travel Time Information

- Thought it was repetitive to a previous effort
- Wait to see result of a similar NCHRP study
- Change to a synthesis study on how agencies are currently doing it
- Change title to synthesis of current travel time practice and reduce budget to \$50,000

TMC Clearinghouse Phase 2

- Place on ballot for revote

TMC White Paper Series

- Place on ballot for revote

Developing TMC Operators Training Program Guidelines

- Place on ballot for revote

TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures

- Place on ballot for revote
- Include data element and format

Effectiveness of Highway Advisory Radio

- Place on ballot for revote

Best Practice for Road Condition Reporting Systems

- Place on ballot for revote

Develop Training Simulator for TMC Operators

- For principal operations
- Develop a universal tool allowing agencies to customize
- Show consequences of decisions
- The tool developed for Caltrans in Irvine was expensive

- I-95 Corridor Coalition has a web-based interactive system that may be part of the incident management tool
- Phase 1: research tools currently available, also look at similar industries (including gaming). \$35,000 for phase 1
- Phase 2: develop training simulator
- KC Scout integrates Google Earth virtual simulation into an Access database and use it as a training program

10-year Technology Impacts on TMC Operations

- Redundancy and failures in data collection
- Use 3G phones as probes
- Need to look into future
- GPS issues – accuracy and nationwide coverage
- Look at med-term (10 years) future
- \$100,000 for budget

Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs

- Follow on study of current project
- \$350,000

Advance Travel Time Displays at Freeway Entrance Approaches

- Illinois DOT is implementing a similar system in the Chicago area
- Some states have flip down signs for alternate routes
- Could also use FM/AM radio for information dissemination but motorists need to know where to tune to
- \$300,000

Prioritize 2009-2010 Projects

Following the discussion, members proceeded with voting and prioritizing the projects to pursue in 2009-2010. Results of the project prioritization are summarized in the table below:

Rank	Project	Score	Champion
1	Advance Travel Time Displays at Freeway Entrance Approaches (\$300k)	36	Jeff Galas
2	10-year Technology Impacts on TMC Operations (\$100k)	32	Cathy McGhee
3	Effectiveness of Highway Advisory Radio (\$100k)	30	Ali Farhangi
4	TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures (\$100k)	27	John Domina
5	Synthesis of Current Travel Time Practice (\$50k)	26	Jeff Galas
6	Human Factors Guidelines for TMCs (\$350k)	23	Ed Sirgany
7	Best Practice for Road Condition Reporting Systems (\$100k)	21	Doug Dembowski
7	TMC Clearinghouse Phase 2 (\$80k)	21	Chair and co-chair
9	Develop Training Simulator for TMC Operators, Phase 1 (\$35k)	20	Dave Kinnecom
10	TMC White Paper Series (\$50k)	19	Mike Jenkinson
11	Developing TMC Operators Training Program Guidelines (\$75k)	2	Scott Nodes

The group would review the voting results and discuss further on Day 2.

Review Day 2 Agenda/Adjourn for Day

The meeting was adjourned for the day.

Wednesday, May 20

New Project Selection and Discussion

Members further discussed the scope of the Advance Travel Time Displays at Freeway Entrance Approaches project. Discussion points are summarized below:

- Locations of displays: key decision points before freeway entrances.
- Technology consideration: will CMS be obsolete in near future?
- Focus on information disseminated and impacts on travelers and traffic operations.
- Could include other technology such as in-vehicle media.
- Collaborate with ICM and other related studies.
- Need to assume arterial conditions are known.
- Perform a synthesis study first with a lower budget. Re-title the project to: Ways to Provide Information Prior to Getting on Freeways.
- Lack of such information is a common complaint from the public.
- Suggested scope:
 - Research what have been done and identify key issues and problems.
 - Develop methods to perform the study. Study methods could include driver simulation and/or others.
 - Identify what information drivers would like to see and get.
 - Simulate drivers' reactions to different types of signs/displays (e.g. static signs with CMS inserts or arrows).
 - Focus on information rather than technology.

Transportation Pooled Fund Program Financial Procedures

Lisa Williams (FHWA) provided an overview of the pooled fund program over the phone. An overview on the revised financial procedures for participating in the pooled fund projects was also provided.

Remaining TMC PFS Activities for 2009/2010

Florida DOT would host the next annual meeting. Potential locations for the meeting included Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tampa. The actual location would be determined at a later date. Lee would coordinate with Elizabeth Birriel (Florida DOT) for meeting arrangements. The meeting would likely be held in early or mid-May.

The next quarterly conference call would be in August or September. Lee would send a notice to the group.

Travel expense report forms were distributed to participants. Lee provided instructions on how to complete the form.

Tour of FAST TMC

Glenn Grayson (FAST) gave a background and overview of the TMC. Unique features and functions were presented. At the conclusion of the presentation, the group toured the TMC facility and observed the control room operation.

Transportation Management Center Pooled Fund Study 2009 Annual Meeting – May 19 & 20 Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Mike Jenkinson	Caltrans
Raj Ghaman	Federal Highway Administration
Jimmy Chu	Federal Highway Administration
Tom Granda	Federal Highway Administration
Gene Glotzbach	Florida Department of Transportation
Mark Blackshaw	Idaho Transportation Department
Jeff Galas	Illinois Department of Transportation
Ryan Lynch	Kansas Department of Transportation
Glenn Grayson	Las Vegas FAST
Brian Hoeft	Las Vegas FAST
Suzette Peplinski	Michigan Department of Transportation
Todd Kramasz	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Jason Sims	Missouri Department of Transportation
Jim McGee	Nebraska Department of Roads
Denis Inda	Nevada Department of Transportation
John Talbott	Nevada Department of Transportation
Bill Hoffman	Nevada Department of Transportation
Jeff Lerud	Nevada Department of Transportation
Sandra Spencer	Nevada Department of Transportation
John Bassett	New York State Department of Transportation
Ed Sirgany	North Carolina Department of Transportation
Ali Farhangi	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Rich Cunard	Transportation Research Board
Dave Kinnecom	Utah Department of Transportation
Cathy McGhee	Virginia Department of Transportation
Jim Poston	Washoe County RTC
Doug Dembowski	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
John Campbell	Battelle
Jeff Beson	URS Corporation
Ming-Shiun Lee	URS Corporation